

**PRESS RELEASE:**  
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**Augusta Memorial Bridge Re-opening to Traffic  
on Saturday, May 13th**

**AUGUSTA** – MaineDOT is pleased to announce that the Augusta Memorial Bridge opened to traffic at noon on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>; 11 days ahead of schedule and 75 days after the full closure began.

“With the help of good weather and seven-day work weeks, the period of the full closure was shorter than expected,” said Wayne Frankhauser, MaineDOT Project Manager. However, Memorial Bridge remains an active work zone through August 2006.

“The bridge remains closed to bicycles and pedestrians, and motorists need to travel at reduced speeds,” Frankhauser continued. Due to continued construction on the bridge, there will be occasional lane closures and delays. “We encourage motorists to continue to use alternate routes whenever possible.”

Downtown parking patterns will be restored as soon as possible with approval of the Augusta Parking District. Most of the downtown traffic patterns will stay in place for a month, as MaineDOT and the City of Augusta look at ways to improve the safety and efficiency of the traffic patterns in the downtown areas.

According to MaineDOT Commissioner David A. Cole “MaineDOT wants to thank Augusta residents, businesses and area motorists for their patience and support. With their cooperation, this closure has gone safely and smoothly.”

MaineDOT also acknowledged the efforts of the contractor, CPM Constructors. “They are doing a challenging job safely and ahead of schedule,” Cole said. “They have worked aggressively to re-open this key Kennebec Valley transportation link well ahead of the summer season.”

MaineDOT will continue to keep motorists informed of these temporary closures through its web site, [www.mainedot.gov](http://www.mainedot.gov) . The public is encouraged to sign up on the web site for the e-mail alert system in order to receive direct notification of traffic changes on the bridge through August.

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